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ONE CENT

# TARIFF TINKERING ONLY MENACE TO BUSINESS OF U.S.

## Charles M. Schwab Says Present Era of Prosperity Is Unprecedented.

**FEAR CONGRESS MAY MEDDLE**

### Steel Master Also Makes Strong Plea for Establishment of Merchant Marine

New York, Dec. 8.—Charles M. Schwab, in an interview at his home, Riverside Drive and Seventy-third Street, to-day declared the business interests of the country were experiencing an era of unprecedented prosperity.

"There is nothing to complain about now," said Mr. Schwab. "The steel mills both in the East and in the West are working to capacity. All other lines of industry are prosperous, and the agricultural reports indicate the biggest crop we have had in years."

**Will Not Quit Business.**

"A year ago I was quoted as telling the Senate Finance Committee that if the House Democratic steel bill became a law I would get out of the steel trade."

for good. If I made that statement  
did not intend to be as emphatic. I have  
no lack of matters out of the stock here

"I have not much faith in such promises so far as the steel industry is concerned, because the idea seems to be abroad that we can or should be able to

manufacture steel rails in this country as cheaply as they can be manufactured by the foreigners. Such statements were never contributed to me. But I am sorry to say the least, inaccurate.

**Conditions Not Equal.**

What I have said about the cost of manufacture was that with equal conditions steel could be made as cheaply

"With the same conditions, especially with labor as cheap, we ask no protection. But the labor account weighs heavily against us. The cost of our material in being a car of steel rails from Bethlehem to New York as it does to bring them from Holland or Belgium.

"To reduce the cost of our products we would have to reduce the cost of the labor in our mills. The cost of living will not permit of reduced wages. Labor will not stand for reduced pay.

"Generally, I believe in paying good wages and better conditions of work.

"But it has been known that you sell steel cheaper abroad than you do in the United States," interrupted the reporter.

"That is true," answered Mr. Schwab promptly "but a large proportion of our steel abroad are made at a loss. It is a necessary outlet because the average cost of a large production is less than that of a small production. It is necessary to maintain the output for the machines going all the time."

**Need Merchant Marine.**

Mr. Schwab announced himself as

"It is a disgrace to the nation that our trade relations with South America are so limited," he said. "As a nation

"The geographical relation of South America to the United States is sufficient to show that the trade between the two countries should be large, but we cannot get the business because the freight

rates controlled by foreign shipping interests are prohibitive. If we had ships of our own—a merchant marine such as could be provided for by a ship subsidy bill—conditions would be very much changed."

**Sympathize with  
Waiter Who Fainted  
on Getting \$25 Tip**

Washington waiters said last night that they could fully sympathize with the waiter in Philadelphia who suffered a brainstorm when given a \$5 tip.

A plain waiter in a Washington hotel complained that the guests here showed so much discretion in tipping that he was not able to keep up his Washington and New York establishments on their proceeds. He scoffed at the idea that any Washington patron ever forget himself so far as to give a tip of \$50.

ship of ten years or so, some local waiter had been rewarded with a \$20 tip at Christmas time. He said, however, that Washington was decidedly not the place to acquire the correct bias air when handling a \$20 tip. Most waiters in Washington's very best hotels, he said, could take tips up to \$5 cents with-

out much show of emotion, but he refused to hazard a guess at the amount of effect a \$5 gratuity would produce.

**Largest Morning Circulation.**